

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Previously Presented) A method for preventing or treating an inflammatory skin or mucous membrane disease, comprising administering to a subject in need thereof an effective amount of hyaluronic acid in crosslinked form.
2. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein administering is by local administration.
3. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein administering is by intradermal administration, by administration to the border of the dermoepithelial transition or by topical administration.
4. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein the degree of crosslinking is 0.1% to 10%.
5. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein the crosslinked hyaluronic acid is present in a mixture with uncrosslinked hyaluronic acid.
6. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 5, wherein the uncrosslinked hyaluronic acid is
 - (i) long-chain hyaluronic acid having an average molecular weight (weight-average) of at least 200 kD, or
 - (ii) short-chain hyaluronic acid having an average molecular weight (weight-average) up to 50 kD, or
 - (iii) a mixture thereof.
7. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein the hyaluronic acid is in a composition which contains an inhibitor of hyaluronic acid degradation.

8. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 7, wherein the inhibitor of hyaluronic acid degradation is heparin, indomethacin, a salicylate, a free radical trap, or vitamin A, C or E, or a mixture thereof.

9. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein the hyaluronic acid is present as an injectable preparation, ointment, cream, lotion, gel, spray, tincture, shampoo, occlusive film, powder or inhalable preparation.

10. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein the hyaluronic acid is in a composition which contains a further glycosaminoglycan in crosslinked or uncrosslinked form.

11. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein the inflammatory skin or mucous membrane disease is atopic dermatitis, eczema, seborrheic or microbial eczema, pruritus, prurigo, urticaria, red lichen, psoriasis, psoriasis vulgaris, vitiligo, a viral skin disease which leads to wart formation, verruca vulgaris, Condylomata accuminata, rosacea, perioral dermatitis, acne, acne vulgaris, acne conglobata, a polypous mucous membrane disease, nasal polyposis, an inflammatory intestinal disease, a chronic or acute ulceration of the skin, aphthae or mycoses.

12. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein the subject is a human.

13. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein the subject is a veterinary patient.

14. (Previously Presented) A process according to claim 1, which is for treating an inflammatory skin or mucous membrane disease.

15. (Previously Presented) A method for preventing or treating an inflammatory disease of the eye, comprising administering to a subject in need thereof an effective amount of hyaluronic acid in crosslinked form.

16. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 15, which is for preventing or treating an inflammatory disease of the conjunctiva or cornea.

17. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 15, which is for preventing or treating after-cataract or inflammation of the conjunctiva.

18. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 15, wherein the crosslinked hyaluronic acid is present in a mixture with uncrosslinked hyaluronic acid.

19. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 15, wherein the hyaluronic acid is in a composition which contains a further glycosaminoglycan ~~glycosaminoglycan~~ in crosslinked or uncrosslinked form.

20. (Currently Amended) A method for treating skin or soft tissue defects and skin wrinkles comprising administering to a subject in need thereof an effective amount of a mixture of hyaluronic acid in crosslinked and uncrosslinked form.

21. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 20, wherein the hyaluronic acid is in a composition which contains a further glycosaminoglycan ~~glycosaminoglycan~~ in crosslinked or uncrosslinked form.